

HOUSE RESOLUTION 178

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Audrey Izone Elion of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this legislative body were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Audrey Izone Elion of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Audrey Elion was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on June 3, 1923, in Scott, Arkansas, Audrey Izone Elion was the last surviving child of the nine children born to Anderson Brown and Mary M. Brown; the family survived one of the worst natural disasters in the history of the United States, the Great Mississippi flood of 1927, finding refuge in the loft of a barn with several other families until the water receded; and

WHEREAS, Audrey Izone Elion attended Nelson High School in Scott, Arkansas, and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Memphis, where she attended night classes as part of the technical program and learned how to sew; she continued her education by taking classes at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished professional, Audrey Elion was one of the first African-American female tailors in Memphis, and she displayed her talent and skill as an employee of Bond's Clothing, Lansky Brothers, and Lewis Letters before she began a successful tailoring business in her home; and

WHEREAS, Audrey Izone Elion was joined in holy matrimony to Howard W. Elion, and to that joyous union eight children were born: Victor H. Elion, David H. Elion, Josie F. Elion, Mable (Chris) Elion, Winston W. Elion, Doris A. Elion, Felton E. Elion, and Terry L. Elion; and

WHEREAS, Audrey Izone Elion was a faithful member of Central Baptist Church Inc. for sixty-four years, where she served as a Sunday School teacher and choir member and on various committees and groups within the church, including the Senior Girls, the Senior Willing Workers, and the Harvest Day committees; she also held positions with the local, state, and National Baptist Congress and served as the president of the Board of Christian Education; and

WHEREAS, active in her community, Mrs. Elion was the president of the Parent Teacher Association for Porter Junior High School in the 1950s; she volunteered her services to benefit many youth and charitable organizations and routinely visited the sick in their homes, nursing care facilities, and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Elion leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Audrey Izone Elion, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Audrey Izone Elion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.